

PRINCESS COMICS

フレンジー

—アブローズ—



有吉京子

A San Francisco Story



San Francisco...





YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE'S
GUYS A
CROWD
FORMING.

IT
LOOKS
FUN!

WOW, CHECK
OUT THOSE
BALLOONS!



OH, I
HAVE TO
SEE
THIS!



HEY!

TAKE A LOOK
OUTSIDE!
I THINK THE
PARADE'S
STARTED!

IT'S A BIT
FAR, BUT
WE CAN SEE
IT FROM
HERE.



IT'S HARD TO
BELIEVE EVERYONE
IN THAT GIANT
CROWD IS GAY!

PEOPLE
JUST KEEP
POURING IN!

IT'S
INCRED-
IBLE.



WELL, PEOPLE
HAVE COME
FROM ALL
OVER THE
COUNTRY FOR
THIS.

THERE ARE SO
MANY OF THEM
IT MAKES ME
WONDER IF
EVERYONE IN
SAN FRANCISCO
IS GAY!



MOST OF THE
PAIRS WALKING
TOGETHER ARE
PARTNERS,
RIGHT?

HEY.

THEY'RE
DRESSED LIKE
EACH OTHER

PROBABLY



SHE'S ASKED
ME TO PICK UP
A FEW THINGS
ON MY WAY TO
THE HOSPITAL.

WELL, I'D
BETTER
GET GOING.



BUT SHE'S
RUNNING A BIT
OF A FEVER THIS
MORNING, SO I'LL
PROBABLY SPEND
THE NIGHT AT
THE HOSPITAL
WITH HER.

THE
SURGERY
WAS A
SUCCESS.

HOW IS
SHE
DOING?



WILL YOU BE
ALL RIGHT
ON YOUR
OWN,
YUUKO?

YEAH,
I'LL BE
FINE

THIS IS A CHANCE
FOR US TO ASSERT
OUR EXISTENCE IN A
PUBLIC PLACE.



ANY PEOPLE ARE
USUALLY PUSHED
TO THE CORNERS
OF SOCIETY



I WAS THE
ONE WHO
INVITED YOU
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.

YOU JUST
WORK ON
YOUR
MANUSCRIPT.



I FEEL
KIND OF
BAD
ABOUT
THAT.

DON'T BE
SERIOUS-
LOUSEY



IF THERE'S

ANYTHING I CAN DO
TO HELP, JUST LET
ME KNOW. AFTER
ALL, I'M IMPROVING
ON YOU WHILE YOUR
GIRLFRIEND IS IN THE
HOSPITAL.



I'LL BE BACK
FOR A BIT THIS
EVENING. LET'S
PLAN TO HAVE
DINNER TO-
GETHER.

OKAY!



AT LEAST

MY JOB IS
HERE, SO
I'M STAYING
A WHILE
LONGER.

HAHA...

HEY, ARE YOU
PLANNING TO STAY
HERE FOREVER?
REGULARLY ARE
YOU EVER GOING
BACK TO JAPAN?

I HOP
TO



MAYBE I
SHOULD
CALL UP
YOUR BOY-
FRIEND IN
JAPAN AND
TELL HIM
YOU SAID
THAT?

OR
REALLY
?!



WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT? AREN'T
YOU GETTING
MARRIED SOON?

I CAN PUT
HIM OFF AS
LONG AS I
NEED TO.



IT MIGHT BE
NICE TO LIVE
HERE...

MAYBE I'LL LOOK
INTO FINDING AN
AMERICAN
PUBLISHER TO
WORK FOR.

ALL THE TRAVEL-
ING BACK AND
FORTH FROM
JAPAN FOR
RESEARCH IS
WEARING ME
OUT.



PEOPLE CAN ONLY TAKE THE PLAINS IF THEY DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER THAT WELL YET!

YOU HAVE TO BE THE KNOW BEFORE YOU LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT ONE ANOTHER.



I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER EVEN BEEN MARRIED!



WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

M
E
Y
!



I'M REALLY NOT SURE ABOUT MARRYING HIM, THOUGH

HE'S A GREAT GUY, BUT WE'RE MISSING THAT SPECIAL SOMETHING

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU TWO HAVE BEEN DATING FOR THREE YEARS AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN MARRIED YET!



I'LL NEVER GET MARRIED NOT EVER



WHY NOT?



I'D BETTER HIT THE ROAD. BYE!!



LOOK AT THE TIME!!



It's the girl of the hour



I REMEMBER NOW... SHE WAS STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL...



BUT ACTUALLY
BRING-BAY IS
SOMETHING ELSE
ENTIRELY, RIGHT?

IT'S PRETTY
NORMAL FOR KIDS
TO HAVE SAME-
SEX CROWDS—

WELL...

REAL-
LY?

ARE YOU
INTERESTED?

HMM... NOT
REALLY.

I'M SURE THAT
HAPPENS HERE,
TOO—

AND SOME OF
THE GUYS SEEM
LIKE THEY'D BE
REALLY POPU-
LAR WITH THE
LADIES—

SO MANY OF
THE WOMEN
ARE PRETTY,

IT'S
JUST

THAT THEY'RE
ALL A LOT MORE
ATTRACTIVE
THAN ME, AND
YET THEY—
Y'KNOW...

WHAT I
MEAN...
WAS, UM,

OH! I'M SORRY.
I PUT THAT
WRONG—

IT'S NOT LIKE
THEY TURN AWAY
BECAUSE THEY
CAN'T GET A
GIRLFRIEND.







THE OTHER
GENDER INSIDE
OURSELVES IS
EMPHASIZED.

FOR
GAY
PEOPLE.

AND
STRAIGHT
MEN ACT
STRONG IN
ORDER TO
SATISFY
WOMEN'S
SENSE OF
DEPENDENCE.

MEANWHILE,
STRAIGHT
WOMEN PRE-
TEND TO BE
WEAK IN ORDER
TO SATISFY
MEN'S SENSE
OF SUPERIO-
RITY.

BUT LET'S
SUPPOSE THAT
WOMEN ONLY
ACT FEMINE
FOR MEN.

WE REJECT
THAT SORT
OF FEMINITY
WITH OUR
PANTS AND
OUR SHORT
HAIR.

FOR
STRAIGHT
PEOPLE, IT'S
COMPLETELY
THE OPPO-
SITE.

WELL,
THERE
ARE EX-
CEPTIONS.

.....
THAT SOUNDS
AWFULLY ONE-
SIDED.

I'M SPEAK-
ING IN
GENERALI-
ZATIONS.

AND I'D
REJECT ANY
MAN THAT
WANTED
ONE!

I HAVE
NO
DESIRE TO
PLAY
THE WEAK
WOMAN.

WE NEED
TO MELT
THOSE
AWAY...

*the
gender*

OUR LONG
HISTORY OF
GENDER ROLES
AND IDEAS ABOUT
THEM HAVE LED
TO SPECIFIC
IMAGES OF EACH
GENDER.

ESSENTIALLY,
EVERY PERSON
HAS BOTH
GENDERS
INSIDE THEM.

WOMEN ARE
JUST AS
STRONG AS
MEN, AND MEN
ARE JUST AS
WEAK AS
WOMEN.

MAYBE
THEN
PEOPLE'S
TRUE
APPEAL
WILL
EMERGE...

AND FIND A
BALANCE
BETWEEN
THE TWO.

THESE PEOPLE
ARE PROBABLY
TRYING TO
TEACH EACH
OTHER.

ABOUT THE IM-
PORTANCE OF
FINDING THAT
BALANCE.

She has
a point
there.

BOTH
.....
I GUESS.

AN
HONEST
RES-
PONSE.

Chelle

HMM...

WHAT AN
INCISIVE
QUESTION

WHICH
WOULD
YOU
RATHER
HEAR?

...SO.

THAT YOU'RE
ATTRACTIVE AS
A WOMAN, OR
THAT YOU'RE
ATTRACTIVE AS
A PERSON?













I WANT.....
TO DO
WHATEVER
I CAN TO
HELP HER.



RIGHT NOW.....
I WANT TO GIVE
HER EVERYTHING
SHE WANTS.





THANKS
FOR
DINNER.

IT WAS
GOOD. AND
IT CALMED
ME DOWN, I
THINK.

GLAD TO
HEAR IT.

LOOKS
LIKE THE
PARADE
ISN'T OVER
YET.

THEY'LL BE
CELEBRAT-
ING ALL
NIGHT.

WELL...

I SHOULD BE
GETTING
BACK TO THE
HOSPITAL.

I TOLD CHELSE
I'D ONLY BE
AWAY A COUPLE
OF HOURS.
SHE'S WAITING
FOR ME.

OKAY, I'LL
TAKE CARE OF
THE DISHES,
THEN!

ARE YOU
SURE?



TRACY,

WOULD YOU
MIND SPENDING
THE NIGHT
HERE?

.....



PLAT?

AND..... CHELSE IS A
LITTLE WORRIED UP
RIGHT NOW. ...THIS
MORNING'S BLOOD
TEST RESULTS
WEREN'T VERY GOOD.

I'LL BE
FINE,
MAGNUM.

I'M A LITTLE
WORRIED
ABOUT LEAV-
ING YOUNG
HERE ON
HER OWN.



I LIKE TALKING
WITH YUKIO.

...LET ME
KNOW IF
YOU NEED
ANYTHING,
OK??

I'M SORRY,
AND AFTER
YOU WAITED
FOR ME AND
EVERYTHING

YUKIO SAYS

IT'S ALL
RIGHT.

YUKIO SAYS
OHAYO

I WANT TO
TALK TO HER,
AND CALM HER
DOWN.



No...

AREN'T YOU
GLAD YOU'LL
HAVE TRACY
HERE,
YUKIO??

THANKS

Megumu



You don't
understand,

YUKIO??

I'm not the one
Tracy wants to be with.

You are.



YOU CAN LEAVE
THE DISHES FOR
ME. I'LL WASH
THEM LATER.

HEY,

WANT TO COME
LISTEN TO SOME
MUSIC WITH ME?



♪♪♪♪♪
♪♪♪♪♪

♪♪♪♪♪
♪♪♪♪♪
♪♪♪♪♪

SHE'S.....
A GAY
SINGER.

SHE SINGS
VERY HONEST
SONGS ABOUT
LOVE.

THE LYRICS OF
THIS ONE ARE
PARTICULARLY
GOOD... IT'S
ABOUT AN
EX-LOVER.



IT'S LIKE
HER VOICE
IS SEEDING
RIGHT INTO MY
HEART.



HAVE YOU
HEARD THIS
SONG BEFORE?

NO...
IT'S NEW,
THOUGH.



Don't forget.....

that I loved you.



note: The closest English-language match we were able to find for this song was Diddy-Dirtyhead's "Don't Forget About Me" (However, since it's the famous "ex-lover" match, we've translated the Japanese lyrics to English rather than replacing them with the English lyrics.)

don't forget let
me guard let each
other

Busy, please,

Don't forget
that you loved
me

without you
in my life.

I'm so lonely

Don't let right
off my path

as time marches
on for you

Busy, please, just
don't forget about
me, need, today



ABOUT WHAT?

ANYTHING.

WHAT YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW.



WHAT?

TALK TO ME.



WHAT'S WRONG?



I THINK I'M IN SHOCK.



WAS JUST HER ROOMMATE.

THOUGHT THAT SHELL...



YES.



I'M...NOT TRYING TO JUDGE HER.

I JUST—



—WHY DID IT

COME AS SUCH A SHOCK TO ME?

HOW LONG
HAVE YOU TWO
BEEN FRIENDS?

THE FIRST
TIME I SAW
HER WAS BACK
WHEN WE WERE
IN DIFFERENT
CLASSES.

SINCE
HIGH
SCHOOL.

*She was... truly
beautiful*

*She was
famous.
Even got in
other classes
bored her*

"LOOK, THAT'S
KIMIKAGE
MISURU!" SHE
SAID

A FRIEND OF
MINE POINTED
HER OUT TO
ME IN THE
HALLWAY—

*I could
recognize
her voice*

*even from far
away!*

*From the moment
I saw her,*

*I wished we could
be in the same
class.*



to count her
as a friend.

I was
always
proud

IT'S
LOVELY,
HART.

...YES.

EVERY TIME
SHE LEFT—

ALL I COULD THINK
OF WAS WHEN I'D
GET TO SEE HER
AGAIN.

When she
decided to
study abroad
in the United
States,

I told myself
that it would
be all right.
That she'd be
back in two
years.

I told myself
that it would
be all right,
because I
could get
assignments
here for
work.

And again
when she
got a job
here after
graduation.

and come
visit her.



COULD GET
OVER HER?



WHY NOT?



SO
WHY...

ALL THESE
YEARS... EVER
SINCE OUR
SCHOOL DAYS!

WHY A
WOMAN?
WHY NOT A
MAN?

IF SHE
WERE A
MAN, I...



THAT'S NOT
WHAT I
MEAN

NO...



BUT IT'D TAKE
YOU OVER
CHELLE.

I JUST...
DON'T LIKE
THAT
MOMENT!



THAT'S WHY
YOU SEE
THINGS THIS
WAY!



WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

YOU TOLD ME
YOU'RE IN
LOVE WITH
HER.



I THINK...
REGULARE
LOVES YOU
VERY MUCH.

clack

XXX

AS A
FRIEND!

SHE MONOPOLIZED HER
ATTENTION,
AND RUBBED
IT IN MY FACE.

I COULD TELL
SHE'D NEVER
LET MEQUMI
GO.....

WHEN I SAW
HER FOR THE
FIRST TIME, IN
THE HOSPITAL..

WHY
NOT?

I'VE KNOWN
MEQUMI A
LOT LONGER
THAN SHE
HASE.

SHE WAS ALL
CLINGY WITH
MEQUMI.....

I'M THE
ONE
WHO—

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S
GOTTEN INTO
ME.

I'M
SORRY.

COMPLAINING
LIKE THAT
WHEN SHE'S
ILL.

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH ME?



WHY
NOT?

SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH ME.

THERE MUST
BE.....

trickle...



I... HAD NO
IDEA I HAD
THOSE FEELINGS
TOWARD ME.







...SO
PLEASE

DON'T BE
SCARED
OF THAT



I
KNOW

BUT

IT'S
JUST AN
ILLUSION...
THAT YOU
CAN'T FALL
IN LOVE



WITH SOME-
ONE OF THE
SAME
GENDER



WHETHER
IT'S A MAN
OR A
WOMAN,

THE
PERSON
YOU'RE
DRAWN
TO

IS YOUR
TRUE PART-
NER.

B
O
O
M

TRACY

TRACY

TRACY

TRACY

TRACY

TRACY



YOU'RE
BACK
EARLY...

ABSOLUTELY



WANT
SOMETHING
TO DRINK
OR SOME
BREAK-
FAST?

SHE LEFT
EARLY
THIS
MORNING.

YES...
WHERE'S
TRACY?



WHAT IS
IT?

THERE'S
SOMETHING I
WANT TO TALK
TO YOU ABOUT
FIRST...

NO.

THANKS



ME-OW-
WAA





A San Francisco Story of The Zoo

See Hanks

YOU SEE,

I WANT TO
EXPLAIN...

WHY I WAS PLANNING
TO BREAK UP WITH
CHELLE...

Chele tried to
comfort me,
but it didn't
help...

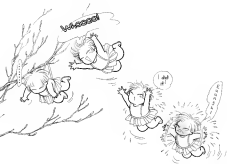
I was shocked
when I found
out that you
were planning
to get married

and that
really
shocked
me too

And I dreamed about flying nearly every night. In most of the dreams, I could fly all right, but sometimes I'd flap my limbs around and only get about 50cm off the ground. If I try to push myself harder—"A monster's coming! It's almost here! I have to get away!"—but it didn't help.

So then I'd think to myself, "It's already flying!" Then the scenery would change and I'd be up high, gliding through the air. At first I'd be relieved, but then I'd gradually start losing altitude. I'd come close to crashing into a tree branch or something, and when I looked down, the ground would be right there again! I'd try to stay above the tree branches, knowing that they'd stop me from going back up if I got below them, but to no avail....

I had already come to understand the cruel realities of life.



Dreaming of Flying

When I was a child, I desperately wanted to fly. I adored tall things. I often went hiking in the nearby mountains, and I climbed plum and persimmon trees all the time.

I liked to climb onto the roof of our house, too. This often got me scolded by my grandmother, since it was an old house and the roof couldn't spring a leak. But I would sneak up there anyway, undisturbed, enthralled with the view. It was so different from the way things looked on the ground. I spent countless hours up on that roof.

The rivers, fields, mountains, and trees looked like they were from some distant, unfamiliar place. I felt like a visitor from a far-off land.

Eventually, I'd sprawl out on the roof and watch the clouds drift by. It felt like I was floating up, up, up in the sky.... It was wonderful. I remember how warm and fuzzy I felt in those moments, and how I'd have a great big grin on my face.



Once I became an adult... (When exactly did that happen, anyway? I'm not sure...) I rarely dreamed about flying. And when I did, I was generally inside a spaceship or standing on a flying saucer. Maybe my knowledge of physics ruined things (but how?). It'd be standing proudly holding a staff, on this beautiful flying saucer that sparkled and shone in all the colors of the rainbow. An alien friend would be there with me (though I don't remember what the alien's face looked like).

The world below me was a peaceful paradise, full of beautiful greenery, mountains, and water. What lovely colors they were! The view was absolutely stunning. I was thrilled and grateful to have the chance to see it.



But still, for the longest time, I kept hoping I'd fly with just my own body again, even one more time.

And then it happened! I floated in real life! I suddenly woke up one night, then floated about 30cm (I think I didn't exactly measure it) above my bed.

"Oh! I'm finally flying! Yes! I did it! Go, me!" I thought to myself, then immediately dropped back down again. "Oh! You did! How could you waste this precious chance?"

After berating myself for a while, I fell back asleep. It caused quite a stir the next morning (it really happened, I swear! It wasn't a dream!)

As long as I can go where I please, when I please, and have a great time with the friends and family who are so dear to me, I don't need anything more out of life. I'm grateful just to have that.

That's where I'm at right now.





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Lalilicious~may its fragrance encompass you

~KishanShrivastava, <http://www.lalicious.net>